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Title: Need to clear Achankovil Pamba-Vaiparu river link scheme in Tamil Nadu. − Laid.

SHRI S. MURUGESAN (TENKASI) : Achankovil Pamba-Vaiparu river link scheme has been drawing attention in the recent past. It is an important scheme and it will benefit farmers living in Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and Virudhu districts of Tamil Nadu. In fact, this scheme was planned 20 years back. The Kerala Government are intending to shelve this river link plan and they have already made a request to the Central Government in this regard. If implemented, this scheme will not only irrigate about 2½ lakh acres of land but also provide drinking water to people living in these districts. In fact, there is no reason for Kerala Government to oppose this scheme. There is a huge potential of electricity generation to the tune of 1114 million units of power with a value of Rupees two hundred and forty crore per annum. Kerala will stand to benefit to fulfil its power demands. I urge upon the Central Government to give its acceptance for the proposed river link scheme.